Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SSC-01 CPR-01 /060 W

R 200533Z AUG 77 FM USINT BAGHDAD TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4881 INFO USUN NEW YORK 116 AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CONFIDENTIAL BAGHDAD 1398

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PORG, PINR, IZ

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF NEW IRAQI AMBASSADOR TO THE UN

REF: (A) BAGHDAD 1046, (B) BAGHDAD 0862 (NOTAL)

1. BY DECREE ISSUED AUGUST 10 IRAQ HAS NAMED AS ITS NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE UN MOHAMMAD SAID AL-SAHHAF, WHO HAS SERVED FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS AS IRAQI AMBASSADOR TO INDIA. WORDING OF THE DECREE IS SOMEHWAT CURIOUS, SINCE IT IMPLIES THAT SAHHAF, WHO IS A RELATIVELY JUNIOR AMBASSADOR, MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE IRAQ'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK BUT WILL CARRY AMBASSADORIAL RANK AND WILL BE IN CHARGE OF IRAQI MISSION TO THE UN AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING.

2. SAHHAF IS A FORMER SCHOOL TEACHER, BAATH PARTY MEMBER AND DEVOTED FAMILY MAN. HE IS REPORTED TO BE ATTENTIVE TO DETAIL BUT RATHER UNIMAGINATIVE. PRIOR TO HIS ASSIGNMENT TO NEW DELHI HE SERVED AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF RADIO AND TELEVISION IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. ALTHOUGH HE SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH AND HAS MEDIA EXPERIENCE WHICH SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN HIS ROLE OF SENIOR IRAQI DIPLOMAT PRESENT IN THE U.S., WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE CONFIDENTIAL

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MAY NOT HAVE IDEAL PERSONALITY TO PROJECT IRAQ'S VIEWS TO EITHER THE U.S. PUBLIC OR TO OTHER DIPLOMATS STATIONED IN NEW YORK. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BIO GRAPIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY NEW DELHI. MACK

	Margarat D. Crafold	Declaration / Palaced	LIS Donartment of State	EO Systematic Povicy	22 May 2000
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Message Attributes

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Subject: APPOINTMENT OF NEW IRAQI AMBASSADOR TO THE UN TAGS: PDIP, PORG, PINR, IZ, UN, (AL-SAHHAF, MOHAMMED SAID)

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